

Fr. Martin's Reflection – October 5, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

The readings this Sunday invite us to reflect on faith, perseverance, and humility in our walk with God.

The prophet Habakkuk voices the cry of every believer who has ever felt the weight of injustice and suffering: *"How long, O Lord?"* He laments the violence and strife that seem unchecked in the world. Yet God answers not with an immediate solution, but with a call to wait in faith: *"The righteous one, because of his faith, shall live."* Faith, then, is not an escape from life's hardships but the anchor that steadies us when answers are delayed.

In the second reading, Paul encourages Timothy to *"stir into flame the gift of God"* given to him. Faith is not static; it must be nurtured, strengthened, and lived out with courage. Paul reminds Timothy – and us – that the Spirit God gives is not one of fear but of power, love, and self-control. In a world where discouragement and doubt often creep in, we are called to hold fast to the faith handed down to us, guarding it with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel brings this all together with the apostles' request: *"Increase our faith!"* Jesus responds with a surprising answer. He teaches that even faith the size of a mustard seed can do the impossible. True faith is not about quantity but about trust in God's power. Furthermore, Jesus reminds his disciples that faith is not a bargaining chip with God. Like servants fulfilling their duty, we are called to live our faith with humility, recognizing that all we do is a response to God's grace, not grounds for boasting.

Together, these readings challenge us to a mature faith – one that endures questions and struggles, grows through the Spirit's strength, and serves with humility. Like Habakkuk, we may cry out in the face of suffering; like Timothy, we are urged to keep our faith alive; and like the apostles, we too pray for an increase of faith. Let us trust that God will sustain us, even with mustard – seed faith, as we walk in hope, courage, and humble service.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Fr. Martin